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Concerning Future Responsibilities
and Tasks of Northwest Region
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CONCERNING THE FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS OF THE
NORTHWEST REGION

By
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The liberation of the Northwest is a brilliant achievement of a long arduous struggle of the People's Liberation Army, the people of the Northwest, and the people of the entire nation. It is the victory of our great and heroic leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung as well as his strategy. From now on, the five provinces of the Northwest will be entering a new period of peaceful reconstruction; all nationalities in the Northwest must rise up in unison to consolidate the people's democratic dictatorship and to rebuild a new Northwest.

1. The war of liberation of the people in the Northwest region has been achieved brilliantly. Our new task should be directed mainly toward the extermination of the bandits, wiping out of special agents, carrying out of democratic reforms, mobilization of our strength, economizing of food, clothing and shelter; overcoming of difficulties; and the development of our production efforts. In the old liberated areas, which included border areas of Shensi, Ninghsia, and Kansu, every effort must be made to restore and develop production since land problem has been basically solved. In the semi-liberated areas, such as Huang-lung Subdistrict, they should continue to arouse the masses to complete the work of land distribution. In the newly liberated areas, effort must be directed toward pushing democratic reforms in addition to developing urban activities. Along this line, the first step is to exterminate local bandits, wipe out special agents, oppose and exterminate wicked despots,

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push rent reduction, and weaken all feudalistic powers. Upon completion of these tasks, the work of instituting land reform and of eradicating feudal system must be pushed in keeping with the realistic goal of our revolution. It is well to remember that in enforcing these measures, the level of consciousness and the degree of organizational progress among the masses must be considered.

2. From the end of 1950 harvest to spring cultivation in 1951, land reform program should be carried out in most of Shensi, in certain parts of Kansu and Ningsia, and in certain districts of Tsinghai with the aim of not only giving the cadres experience in this field but to prepare and orient the masses for ultimate completion of this program in the entire area, especially after the completion of the 1951 harvest and prior to 1952 planting season. For the time being, land reform program should not be instituted in the minority nationality districts or in districts inhabited by many minority nationalities. When land reform program should be carried out in these districts should be determined by the degree of progress made by them along social consciousness and local developments. Exception to the above could and should be made in the Chinese and Moslem districts of Kansu, Ningsia and Tsinghai, since they are more advanced intellectually and are able to understand the purport of the land reform movement. It is imperative that before land redistribution is effected, the rent being paid by the peasants to the landlords be reduced by 25-30 percent in accordance with the rent reduction regulations announced by the government. During the redistribution of land, those lands belonging to the middle-class farmers must not be touched. The surplus land of the confiscated landlords and rich farmers, as well as their livestock, farm implements, and houses located in adjacent villages, will all

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be redistributed to the landless peasants and to those who hold only a little land. There can be no grabbing tactics or unfounded claims against property owners.

Regarding industrial and commercial enterprises of landlords and rich farmers, they must be protected and must not, under any pretense, be confiscated or damaged. Landlords will be required to distribute their lands equitably to the peasants. In the implementation of these measures, the All-Circles People's Representative Conference and the Peasants' Representatives Conference should be convened to carry out and announce the legal orders issued by the government; to educate the masses, to strictly carry out the orders of the government, etc., so that land reform in the rural districts will be enforced enthusiastically by the masses.

When violators must be dealt with, they must be given fair trial in accordance with established laws; they must be turned over to the people's courts or provisional tribunals. All death sentences imposed must be first approved by the people's government of provincial level or above before they are carried out. All tortuous third-degree methods of punishment and similar insulting and criminal behaviors must be eliminated.

For the preparation of land distribution activities, there must be planned and conscientious training of cadres. The masses must be aroused; they must be organized; and ch'u and hsiang Peasants' Representatives conferences must be convened to disseminate the experiences gained in the land reform movement in the old liberated areas and to reprint and discuss the problem of demarcating the classes. These ch'u and hsiang peasants' representatives conferences are to be convened by presedural election of representatives at mass

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meetings to be called by workers and revolutionary intellectual elements of the villages. Those elected and who participate in these conferences are to exercise the authority vested upon them and to serve as the executive organ in carrying out land reform program in the districts. Matters such as how the land reform program is to be instituted, operating costs, changes in policies, etc., should be discussed at the Peasants' Representatives Conference. Anyone who fails to carry out his or her duty properly and who fails to reform after he has been criticized may be referred to the Peasants' Representatives Conference, which is empowered to report the matter to a higher level government to have such person removed; in such way, the democratic political authority of the rural people may be effectively carried out.

3. Within a certain period, agriculture and livestock industry must be the center of economic reconstruction in the Northwest. From the standpoint of agriculture, the productivity of the masses must be raised; the seeds and methods used in agricultural pursuits must be improved. In addition, water conservancy projects must be developed and special attention must be given to the preservation of forests and grasslands. It is paramount that we undertake prevention and control of calamities in accordance with the task assigned us by the Central People's Government. One of the tasks assigned calls for the increase in food production by 330 million catties and in cotton production by 120,000 piculs during 1950. We must not let livestock production of Kansu, Ningsia and Sinkiang fall below the 1949 figures; to accomplish this, due stress must be given to the training of livestock cadres, and veterinary stations in the districts inhabited by herdsmen as well as epizootic prevention measures must be developed and established.

In the fields of industry and transportation, we must build the T'ien-Ian Railway Line and repair the T'ien-Pao Railway line; repair and restoration

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of public roads must be undertaken. Special stress must be given to petroleum production, especially with regard to restoring production at Yu-men Oil Field, Wu-su Oil field, etc. The Hsiang-t'ang Oil fields must be reopened. In the field of industry, cotton, wool, and leather industries must be developed; also matters such as increase in production, raise in quality, improving production methods, expansion of markets, economical usage of raw materials, etc., must be properly solved. To carry out these activities, we must depend on raising the political consciousness of the masses, on coordinating operations, and by unity between labor and management. As for privately-operated enterprises, those which are beneficial to the masses must be protected and developed.

Banking and exchange enterprises must be taught to perform the functions of seeing that capital and materials are properly distributed and of stabilizing the prices. These activities are important in restoring and increasing production. To meet and overcome financial requirements, it is important that each and everyone of us bear the burden of paying taxes to the government, of subscribing to government bonds, of contributing our shares of balancing our budget, and of insuring that unnecessary expenditures are eliminated. Factors which will help us in meeting postwar financial and economic difficulties are: participating in production activities, elimination of corruption, waste and extravagance, and doing our part faithfully and energetically.

The Northwest Finance and Economics Committee must adopt a concrete plan for meeting all financial and economic needs of the Northwest.

It is also important that proper relief work be undertaken in this region. Because of natural calamities encountered last year, and also because of the small harvest resulting from wartime destruction and pillaging

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of KMT troops, it is extremely difficult to lighten the burden now being placed upon the masses. Moreover, the serious spring drought as well as drought suffered in certain districts during last winter makes it all the more difficult to achieve this goal. To carry out these measures for improving the livelihood of the masses, all governments must rally, initiate and promote production, set up mutual-aid team to ease hardships of some people, advocate equality and freedom to all, and insure repayment of loans. It is also very important that measures be taken to insure distribution of products, to improve transportation facilities, and to develop production cooperatives. These measures will help greatly in the export of native products to meet local requirements of daily necessities.

In food deficient areas, sugar and liquor production should be banned. Military and civilian workers of all organs should be asked to cut out one or two meals a day to extend relief to drought victims; other similar measures must be taken to help those who are starving to eliminate starvation death.

4. In addition to exterminating the enemy, the PLA has done a great of work to develop local areas. There were many instances in which the members of the military units participated in production activities to lighten the burden of the masses. The aid rendered by the PLA has helped tremendously in overcoming our financial and economic difficulties.

At present, the five provinces in the Northwest have been completely liberated and are now in the midst of preparing for spring planting, for annihilating bandits, for advancing activities of the local areas, and preparing themselves for spring production activities. Based on local conditions, some areas are opening up barren land, developing water conservancy project, constructing railway and public road, and other such essential activities for

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developing the Northwest. Since the PIA is forbidden from going into business independently, it is paramount that this policy be closely adhered to. In accordance with the directive issued by Chairman Mao, military units should engage in construction activities to aid both public and private enterprises. The law calls for private entrepreneurs to withhold 40 percent of the profits gained from production, the remaining 60 percent to be turned over to the production unit and the country. There are more than 100,000 troops in Sinkiang who are participating in production activities. These men are now planning to open up or reclaim 600,000 mou of land. Based on a computation that 5 tou one tou equals 10.9 liquid quarts or 10.35 liters⁷ of food per mou, this would mean that some 300,000 additional piculs of food can be produced. Going a little further, if one base this on cotton production, some 1 million additional catties of cotton can be produced.

It is believed that some 400,000 people of Shensi, Kansu, and Ningsia will be engaged in production activities soon. These people possess a high political consciousness and has achieved high production output in the past. I am firmly confident that they will, with the same resoluteness that they have shown during the war years, ~~continue~~ to carry out their production assignment. In the course of this great production movement, many labor heroes will emerge to become the leaders of production activities; their glory will equal that of the war heroes.

5. During 1950, we must convene all-circles, municipal, hsien, and other people's representatives conferences in accordance with the directives issued by the Central People's government. The people's representatives conferences are the best form of organization for mobilizing and uniting all democratic classes, parties, nationalities, etc. After policies adopted at these con-

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ferences, when approved, should be broadcasted to the masses in order to cement the relationship of the people's government and the masses, to elevate the political consciousness of the people, to expedite the completion of any task, to establish a united front of the people's democratic dictatorship and the people's democracy, and to consolidate and complete the organization between the people and the government. The all-circles people's conferences should be convened in Shensi, Kansu, Ningsia, Tsinghai, and Sinkiang this year. All-circles people's conferences in the large administrative districts of the Northwest should be convened in 1951. During the convocation of an all-circles people's representatives conferences, democratic procedures, criticism and self-criticism, investigation work, etc., should be employed to effectively carry out the work assigned. Bureaucratic tendency must be avoided.

6. In the field of education, there are now 29 special schools of university level with more than 5,000 students attending. In addition to the elementary schools which are too numerous to mention, there are over 280 middle schools with more than 70,000 enrollment in the Northwest today. All governments must give sufficient attention to the education of workers and should expand social education as well as education of the minority nationalities. There must be widespread training of workers' cadres and technical cadres to meet the requirements of essential reform and reconstruction. Cultural education of members of the PLA must be launched; with the army as a unit, middle schools with an enrollment of about 5,000 students should be set up in the military force to provide facilities for the officers and men to advance themselves culturally so that they can become the core of all reconstruction activities and political and cultural advancements of our country.

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As for health activities, measures must be taken to eliminate any outbreak of diseases and epidemics. Widespread education and propaganda activities must be undertaken in the field of sanitation to arouse the people's consciousness. Health facilities, training of medical personnel, and other such measures must also be pushed. In all classes offered to the women cadres, it is important that a course in child hygiene be incorporated.

Culturally, the consciousness of the people must be aroused. The masses must be pushed in the field of mutual cooperation with their fellowmen, and old obsolete cultural habits must be eliminated. Cultural assistant to the minority nationalities must be encouraged so that cultural aid can truly serve the broad masses.

7. On the basis of the principle of equality, unity and mutual assistance, self-government must be carried out in all areas inhabited by the minority nationalities. In all provinces where the minority nationalities reside, they must be given the opportunity to participate in the all-circles representatives conference. Disputes between the different nationalities must be settled by the Minority Nationalities' People's Consultative Council with the assistance of the people's government in accordance with the principles set up in the Common Program.

"Great Nationality" Doctrine and the "Narrow Nationality" Doctrine are contradictory; discrimination against the minority nationalities and any attempt to oppress or disunite a race are acts forbidden by our Common Program. Cadre schools and classes should be established for the minority nationalities to help them better themselves, to carry out the principle of equality, etc. Freedoms of trade, bartering, setting up of consumers cooperatives, and organizing of own transportation and shipping facilities by the minority nationalities

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must not be interfered with. All minority nationalities must develop their languages; they shall be guaranteed freedoms of belief, customs and habits.

I firmly believe that only by conforming to the Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and by following the leadership of the Central People's Government, can we become firmly united to overcome the various difficulties and to efficiently manage our own affairs.

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